

arts news

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Loyola College, Montreal.

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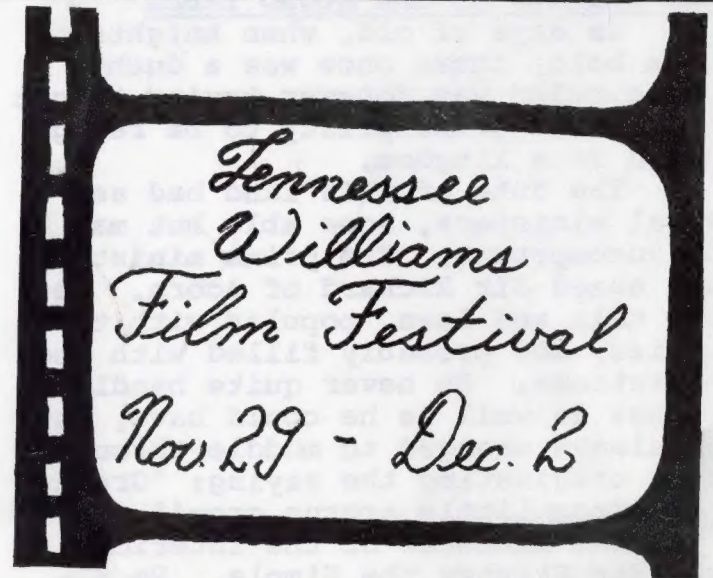
In the last issue of the Arts NEWS, Prof. Dechene expounded some revolutionary theories in an article entitled 'Student-Centered Teaching'. Here is a reply by Prof. Copp of the department of history. -ed.

Learning Centered Teaching by Terry Copp

Professor Dechene's article on Carl Rogers introduces a philosophy of education to the Loyola campus which is gaining many adherents in the United States, particularly in California. Rogers who teaches on a consulting basis at Cal Tech has become the high priest of the "Progressives" who are attempting to direct the California State College system towards what they call "Non-cognitive learning". Examinations, research assignments, lectures and of course assigning marks become unnecessary when the purpose of the university is to create an environment where a student learns about himself and his relations with other people through group interaction. A course on "Marriage and the Family" is concerned not with sociological studies of family situations but with the student's attitudes towards these problems. A course on modern history deals with questions such as, why men fight? what aims do we have for society? and so on.

The appeal of the "non-cognitive" approach is obvious. Students, it is argued, are not learning machines, not human computers to be programmed to perform a given function. They are unique individuals who must achieve self-knowledge and must probe their own motivations and attitudes. Who could possibly

see page 3: Teaching



FILM FESTIVAL

by Joseph Lalla

Loyola College will this year play host to a spectacle: The Tennessee Williams Film Festival. The Arts Society will sponsor this undertaking; the Film Festival running four consecutive days from Tuesday Nov. 29 through Friday Dec. 2. Each movie will be introduced by a speaker of notable qualifications on Tennessee Williams.

The four movies in their order of appearance will be: "Suddenly Last Summer" (homosexuality, cannibalism), "The Fugitive Kind" (murder by blowtorch), "Period of Adjustment" (a transition into marriage), and "Night of the Iguana" (masturbation, underwear fetishism, coprophagy). The actresses will include such notables as Liz Taylor, Jane Fonda and Anna Magnani; the actors will feature Marlon Brando, Richard Burton and Montgomery Clift.

This is the first time that a programme of such magnitude has been organized on the Loyola campus.

see page 3: Festival

~ EDITORIALS ~

Metternich's Memoirs

It has often been said that history repeats itself. Here is an interesting story I came across in an ancient medieval manuscript. The reader will have to decide whether or not history indeed does repeat itself.

THE KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

In days of old, when knights were bold, there once was a duchy whose ruler was forever trying to get his little principality to be recognized as a kingdom.

The duke of this land had several ministers, some able but many incompetent. The prime minister was named Sir Richard of Acorn. He was tall and lean, popular with the ladies, and probably filled with good intentions. He never quite handled things as well as he could have, but he always managed to muddle through, thus originating the saying: "Great oafs from little acorns grow!"

The minister of the interior was Sir Stephen the Simple. He always walked around sleepy-eyed, which indicated the state of his mind. The confusion which characterized all things which passed through his hands, showed all the peasants of the duchy that this sinister and ambitious knight just could not be trusted.

The jolly knight who handled the finances was the most lovable of them all. His lack of arrogance was attributed to the fact that he was not a noble - in fact, it was rumoured that he was descended from a Miller.

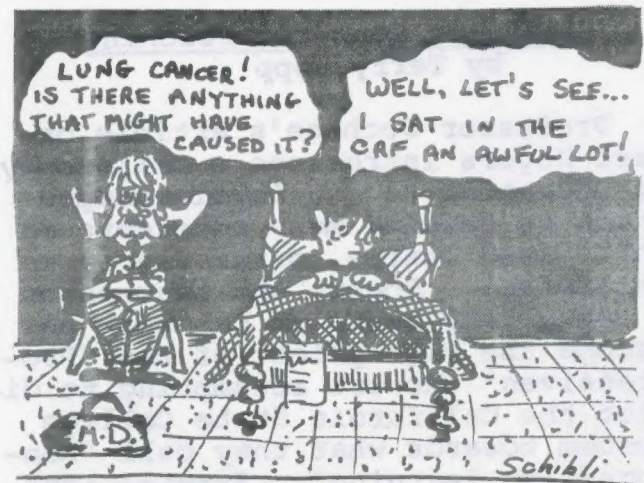
In charge of foreign affairs was Sir André the Gay who was a minor genius, but whose wise opinions, though often requested, were seldom heeded.

These four knights, along with several others, sat round a table in a very Low House where they debated such hot issues as the affair over Ye Book of Hands, which displeased the duke and split peasant opinion. Members in this Low House never felt secure. Some were fired by the prime minister; others resigned; while still others were threatened by peasant

agitation.

Finally there came a great crisis over the monster question. Would the duchy join forces with the dragon Ujek or with the sea serpent Coos. Many knights felt it wise to join a nebulous organization named 'Neither' while others advocated membership in the equally foreign 'Both'. There was a fierce debate, widespread peasant unrest, and tenseness in the atmosphere, when suddenly.....

At this point the manuscript ends. No trace has ever been found of the concluding paragraphs, and the fate of the duchy is one of the great mysteries of history.



WOULD YOU BELIEVE TEN MINUTES?

ARTS NEWS

Franz A.J. Szabo, editor-in-chief.

Staff: Les Detre, Steve Sigmond, Tony Iacobaccio, Paul Shibli, Robert Calderisi, Bill Casey, Mario Relich, and a host of students and professors.

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Letters to the Editor or other articles should be submitted to the Arts Society office (S.A.C. building, room 101) addressed to the ARTS NEWS. The new deadline is Wednesday at 5:00 P.M..

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SLEEP

A Short Story by Mario Relich

As night falls, Ludwig Karponski is seen trudging to his luxury apartment on Sherbrooke Street. He had just seen his doctor while suffering from a headache at teaching undergraduates philosophy -- or so he thinks. He finds that most of them dislike Sartre's "Being and Nothingness". "How absurd," he thinks, "the human condition is even worse than Sartre dares to depict it. Those poor boys haven't learned what life is yet."

Let us make allowances for Ludwig's dire pessimism by considering that:
a- Ludwig had been through a war.
b- he is one of the few survivors of the Warsaw Ghetto. His mission is to preach the gospel of Sartre to all who will listen. He hammers to his students again, and again, and again that dreadful choice is the responsibility of freedom. Let us go back to him as he enters his apartment wearily.

"What are the pleasures of life" he thinks to himself, "if not sleep after a hard day's work and good food and drink. As for women, they should be felt and not heard." One can only guess rightly that Karponski lives alone.

"Pills are absolutely absurd. Pills can cure everything these days from fear of childbirth to perhaps, sooner or later, even cancer." He takes one in his hands and stares at it.

"Can this really cure me?" he thinks, "Aspirin was always effective, maybe this brand is even more so."

Karponski cannot help yawning and he doesn't know we're watching him anyway. Blissful sleep will come now. He realizes it's eternal sleep..... but wait! There is terror in his eyes! He is jumping! No use. He collapsed.

Ludwig Karponski has solved his cancer problem.

Stop staring stupidly! It is time to move on to our next exhibit.

Do YOU have any short stories?

Arts News will print them!

FESTIVAL continued

The Arts Society, anticipating a large turnout, is very confident of a successful festival. The festival is intended to be both entertaining and educational and should be of particular interest to students in the English and Communication Arts Departments.

TEACHING continued

argue with such a programme? Anyone who has given its implications serious thought.

All of us would agree that the achievement of self-knowledge by the individual is desirable. But can this be the primary function of the university? The four years are a brief interlude, the university but a small part of the total environment that an individual is exposed to. The college student is a young man; his basic character has long since been shaped by the experiences of infancy, childhood and early adolescence. Is it the task of the university to unravel the tangled threads of individual personalities? Rogers developed his educational theories out of work with disturbed personalities.

Even if everyone is in some way a "disturbed personality" and mental illness merely a question of degree, should a society organize its educational structures to psychoanalyse the population? The ideal of the liberal arts college with its emphasis on learning, with its concern for broadening horizons by exposing its students to a dialogue on important ideas would seem to provide the opportunity for both self-knowledge and cognitive learning. The study of a particular discipline provides new insight into human behavior, new ways of organizing and thinking about the raw data of experience.

Loyola may fall well short of the ideal of a community of scholars but the direction to take is not the one indicated by Rogers. We need a more liberal curriculum,

see page 4: Teaching (concluded)

The Arts News Football Warrior of the Year:

Bill Sheasgreen

Bill, a fourth year honors history student specializing in Twentieth Century British Political Parties, is the Arts News' choice of "Football Warrior of the Year". 20-year-old Bill is 5'9" and weighs 145 lbs. Our halfback star, number 21 to his fans, scored 4 touchdowns in the 6 games he played this year, suffered a broken wrist in the game against McGill and broken leg veins in the R.M.C. tussle. His immediate plans are to go to graduate school, and then to become a teacher. The ARTS NEWS wishes this graduate of St. Pius X High School the best of luck. Loyola will long remember this football race.

TEACHING concluded

particularly in the freshman year. We need a library as well as the homework and conversation centre which goes under that name. We need a better staff-student ratio so that more students can emerge from the anonymous mass to become identifiable as persons with intellectual curiosity. We need a sense of commitment on the part of both faculty and students to the university community and to the larger society beyond. With these things accomplished an atmosphere in which few would feel alienated would be created. Self-knowledge would not be divorced from the discipline of learning, questions of human motivation would be discussed in the context of a real situation, not as a result of a self-conscious formalized session of soul-searching.

I am far less interested in the question of why an individual is what he is, then the question of what he

will become, and the university has the role of showing him something of the possibilities and limitations of the human condition. There is a place in the university for the formal lecture; it is, at its best, the expression of the ideas of a man who has thought seriously and studied deeply about the subject he is lecturing on. That such lectures should be given three times a week or that attendance should be required is absurd, but this is an attack on the present system and not the concept. Something close to the "community of scholars" is frequently achieved with our honours students. If the sense of participation and the commitment to learning that marks the better honours students could be achieved for all, with a less intensive concentration in one subject, then Loyola might become a great university.

Now that we've heard from the professors, let's have some comments from the readers. -ed.